(b) if so, whether people are facing a lot of troubles as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government are going to take steps to increase their number; and

(d) if so, what steps are likely to be taken and by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Distribution of CNG is being done by the Indraprastha Gas Limited in the city of Delhi, Mahanagar Gas Limited in the city of Mumbai and Gujarat Gas Limited in few cities of Gujarat. As such there are no independent distributors to distribute CNG in these cities. CNG supplies to cities would not be possible in the absence of pipeline and hence the number of cities covered at present are limited. Wherever there are arrangements for CNG supplies, streamlining the supply management is constantly done so that consumers are not affected.

(d) Steps are being taken to convert all daughter stations to daughter-booster stations by installing booster compressor at all of them and as such the number of daugher-booster stations is expected to be fifty by December' 2001.

Discontinuance of Oil Exploration survey works in Orissa

277. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have already stopped the oil exploration survey work in Mahanadi and other areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether the survey work has already been completed and if so, what is the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. Prior to announcement of NELP by Government of India, Oil India Limited had acquired 14248 line kms of 2D and 3343 line kms of 3D seismic data, 3178 line kms of

gravity/magnetic data, 17,000 line kms of aero-magnetic data, 6400 line kms of geo-chemical sniffer survey data and drilled a total of 15 Nos. of exploratory wells in Mahanadi onshore and offshore area as also North East Coast (NEC) offshore areas.

Subsequently, out of the five exploration blocks awarded under first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I) in offshore Mahanadi and the adjoining NEC areas, about 5330 line kms of 2D seismic data has so far been acquired in four blocks. Further seismic data acquisition will also be carried out during the post-monsoon session.

Additionally, under the second round of NELP (NELP-II), Production Sharing Contracts in respect of one onshore and two offshore blocks in Mahanadi area have been signed on 17.7.2001. As per the committed work programme in these blocks, seismic surveys and other exploratory activities are to be undertaken.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The outcome of the exploratory efforts would be known after completion of the processing and interpretation of the currently acquired seismic data and its integration with other available geo-scientific data.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies in Tamil Nadu

278. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines issued for the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of petrol pumps and gas agencies which have been allotted during the period 1999-2000 and February, 2001;

(c) whether Government have recently received complaints regarding the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(d) if so, the details of the complaint received; and

(e) whether any writ petitions have been filed before the High Court of Chennai against the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies?